(c) to what extent India has been able to convince the participating countries on the sanctions imposed on India following nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, sir. The Ninth G-15 Summit was held at Montego Bay, Jamaica from February 10-12, 1999. The Summit deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These included disucssions on the current international economic situation, reaffirmation of the importance of a transparent, fair and equitable rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international financial architecture, South-South and intra G-15 cooperation, and prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters. All such priortties were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the ongoing financial crisis, members agreed to promote convergence of viewpooints on these issues. Participating countries also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menance of terrorism.

(b) and (c). No member country of G-15 raised the issue of India's nuclear tests at the Summit.

Economic Sanctions Against India

1002. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an understanding has reached with USA during his recent talks with Mr. Talbott about likely signing on CTBT by India if so, the detaifs thereof;

(b) whether USA has decided to lift all economic sanctions against India if so, by when; and

(c) the extent of world Bank loan stopped after nuclear test?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The recently held talks with the United States in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 1999 were in continuation of the dialogue initiated in June 1998. As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising the respective views.

Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. The building of a national consensus will continue to guide the Government's approach to the CTBT.

The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions."

(b) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, the US Government on November 7, 1998 announced lifting of some restrictive economics measures against India. These relate to programmes of three US institutions namely the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA). The US Government, also lifted restrictions on activities of Commercial US Banks and International Military Education and Training Programme (IMETR). Bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance in basic needs areas are also continuing.

The US Government stated that it was taking the step in recongnition of the progress in their dialogue with India.

Recently, the US did not obstruct approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Four projects worth US $1.236 billion which were negotiated and ready for World Bank Board approval, have been deferred.

Agreement with Pakistan

1003. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has signed an agreement not to resort to firing on residential areas at borders and also to exchange information relating to smuggling activities across the border;

(b) if so, when such an agreement was signed; and

(c) whether the agreement is being honoured in letter and spirit by Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Pakistani forces resort to unprovoked firing at the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. They also cause casualties by targeting civilian areas during the course of such unprovoked firing. While our forces respond suitably to Pakistani firing, India has, through the agreed and established channels, repeatedly urged Pakistan to restrain its forces from firing accross the border and the LOC.

Mechanisms have been established at governmental and operational levels for co-operation in combating drug trafficking. The Home Secretary of India and the Interior secretary of Pakistan discuss the subject of terrorism and drug Trafficking within the composite dialogue process. The Revenue Secretary of India also has discussions with the Secretary Narcotics Control Division of Pakistan on the control of drug trafficking and smuggling.

Withdrawal of Sanctions

1004. SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctions, which were imposed on India by the U.S. after Pokharan test;

(b) the details of the sanctions which have since been withdrawn;

(c) whether any further sanctions have been withdrawn after the visit of Dy. Secretary of the States to our country recently; and

(d) if not, whether the talks with the Dy. Secretary of the States were successful?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The US imposed restrictive economic measures on India under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act 1994 (NPPA), popularly known as the Glenn Amendment, on May 13, 1998. These measures were:

- Termination of assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, except for humanitarian assistance for food or other agricultural commodities.

- Termination of sales of defence articles, defence services, or design and construction services under the Arms Export Control Act, and termination of licences for the export of any item on the United States Munitions List.

- Termination of all foreign military financing under the Arms Export Control Act.